

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

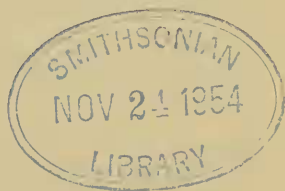
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 300

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic
name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda,
Order Ammonoidea)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 300

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History),
Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*).

President : (Vacant).

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

B. The Members of the Commission

(arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

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Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

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Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948).

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950).

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

OPINION 300

VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "SPHAEROCERAS" BAYLE, 1878 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) is hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 739 and 740 respectively:—(a) *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 (gender : neuter) (type species, by selection by Douvillé (1879) : *Ammonites brongniarti* Sowerby (J.), 1817) ; (b) *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829 (gender : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Dermestes rufitarsis* Panzer, 1796).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 158 and 159 respectively :—(a) *brongniarti* Sowerby (J.), 1817, as published in the combination *Ammonites brongniarti* ; (b) *nigripes* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the combination *Dermestes nigripes*.

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 150 :—*Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 28th February 1949 Dr. W. J. Arkell (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*) submitted an application for the validation of the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea). In November of the same year, Dr. Arkell submitted a supplementary note by Mr. C. E. Tottenham (*Zoological Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*) on the entomological aspects of his proposal—that is, on the question whether any ill-effects in the nomenclature of the relevant genus of the Order Coleoptera (Class Insecta) would result from the suppression as proposed, under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840. In order to ensure the presentation of a comprehensive statement of the issues involved in the present case, it was arranged that Mr. Tottenham's paper should be annexed to Dr. Arkell's application as an Appendix. Correspondence ensued between the Secretary and Dr. Arkell on various matters arising on his application. Dr. Arkell's application, as finally settled on 10th September 1950, was as follows :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name
“*Sphaeroceras*” Bayle, 1878 (Class Cephalopoda, Order
Ammonoidea) (Jurassic)**

By W. J. ARKELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

(*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*)

1. The generic name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 (*Explic. Carte géol. France* 4 (Atlas) : pls. 52, 53) has as its type species *Ammonites brongiarti* Sowerby (J), 1817 (*Min. Conch.* 2 : 190), that species having been so selected by Douvillé in 1879 (*Bull. Soc. géol. France* (3) 7 C.R. : 91).

2. The name *Sphaeroceras* is widely disseminated in the literature of the Jurassic, as will be seen from the list of references given by Roman (1938, *Ammonites jurass. cré.* : 197).

3. Further, the genus *Sphaeroceras* Bayle is the type species of the family SPHAEROCERATIDAE Buckman (1920, *Type Ammonites* 3 : 22).

4. I found however on consulting Neave's *Nomenclator zoologicus* (4 : 239) that the name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, is an invalid junior homonym of the name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840 (*Coleopterist's Manual* 3 : 143), the name of a genus in the Order Coleoptera (Class Insecta).

5. If the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope was a name currently used by coleopterists for a genus of beetles, I should not have considered that it would have been right to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use their Plenary Powers to suppress that name, in order to validate the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle in ammonites. When however I consulted Mr. C. E. Tottenham of the Zoological Museum here, I learnt that the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, was, as from the moment of its original publication, a junior synonym of the generic name *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829, each of these genera having the same taxonomic species as its type species. The Report kindly furnished by Mr. Tottenham is annexed to the present application as an Appendix. In the circumstances disclosed in this Report it was evident that not the slightest inconvenience of any kind would be experienced by coleopterists if the International Commission were to suppress the name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, while that action would be of great value to students of ammonites by validating the name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, which (as I have explained) is the name for a well-known genus of the Jurassic and forms the basis of a family name.

6. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1) to use their Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, and to validate the name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, (2) to place the name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 (gender of generic name : neuter) (type species, by selection by Douvillé, 1879 : *Ammonites brongniarti* Sowerby, 1817) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, (3) to place the trivial name *brongniarti* Sowerby, 1817, as published in the binominal combination *Ammonites brongniarti*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, and (4) to place the name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, suppressed under (1) above, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

Appendix to Dr. Arkell's application

On the question whether the suppression of the name "*Sphaeroceras*" Hope, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera), under the Plenary Powers, would cause any inconvenience to coleopterists

(Memorandum, dated 5th November 1949)

By C. E. TOTTENHAM

(Zoological Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge)

From the point of view of the coleopterist there can be no objection to a request being made to the International Commission on Zoological

Nomenclature for the suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840.

2. The position is this :—Hope, 1840 (*Coleopterist's Manual* 3 : 143) first employed the name *Sphaeroceras* for a genus of beetles belonging to the family DERMESTIDAE. In doing so, he gave no generic characters but merely cited the name in a list of genera and typical species. He gave the name as a synonym of *Globicornis* Latreille, thus :—

Genus	Typical species
7. <i>Globicornis</i> Latr.	<i>D. rufitarsis</i> Pz.
<i>Sphaeroceras</i> Hope	

3. *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829 (*Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 511) is a valid name and is currently in use. The genus so named is monobasic, the only species cited by name by Latreille being *Dermestes rufitarsis* Panzer, 1796, which is therefore the type species of the genus *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829 (*in* Cuvier, *Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 511).

4. Since *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829, and *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, have the same type species, namely *Dermestes rufitarsis* Panzer, 1796 (*Faun. Ins. germ.* 3 (Heft 35) : No. 6) which is a synonym of *Dermestes nigripes* Fabricius, 1792 (*Ent. syst.* 1(1) : 233), Hope's generic name *Sphaeroceras* was strangled at birth and can never be required.

5. I have been able to find no mention of *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, in the literature and it is not even given as a synonym of *Globicornis* Latreille by Junk (1911, *Coleopt. Catalogus* 25, Pars 33).

6. Since it is an unused and useless name in the Order Coleoptera, there is very good reason why this name, as published by Bayle, should be retained in its well-known sense as the name of a genus of ammonites.

7. If the Commission decide to use their Plenary Powers to suppress the name *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, it would be convenient if at the same time they would add the name *Globicornis* Latreille, 1829 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Dermestes rufitarsis* Panzer, 1796 (= *Dermestes nigripes* Fabricius, 1792)) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, and the trivial name *nigripes* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binominal combination *Dermestes nigripes*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application:* On the receipt of Dr. Arkell's preliminary communication in February 1949, the problem arising in connection with the name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)405.

3. *Publication of the present application:* The present application was sent to the printer in December 1950 and publication took place in Triple Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* on 4th May 1951 (Arkell, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 164—165 ; Tottenham, 1951, *ibid.* 2 : 165—166).

4. *Issue of Public Notices:* Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 4th May 1951, both in Triple Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Dr. Arkell's and Mr. Tottenham's applications were published, and also to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Notices were issued to certain palaeontological and entomological serial publications in Europe and America likely to be interested in these applications. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed either from the palaeontological, or from the entomological, point of view.

5. *Support received from Dr. Helmut Hölder* (*Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen, Germany*): On 6th October 1951, Dr. Helmut Hölder (*Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen*) submitted a statement setting out his views on the applications relating to the names of ammonites submitted by Dr. W. J. Arkell published in Triple Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The following is an extract from Dr. Hölder's communication

indicating his support for the proposal relating to the generic name *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878 :—

Stellungnahme zu Arkell's Anträgen zur Nomenklatur jurassischer Ammoniten in Bull. zool. Nomencl. 2, 1951

Den Anträgen Arkell's auf Suspension der Regeln sowie den vorgeschlagenen type species ist im Interesse einer Regelung der verworrenen Ammoniten-Nomenklatur und -Taxonomie im allgemeinen zuzustimmen. Besonders zu begrüßen ist der Schutz der Gattungsnamen *Arietites* und *Perisphinctes* gegenüber *Ammonites* und *Planites* sowie der Schutz von *Sphaeroceras* und *Phylloceras*.

6. *Support received from the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America:* On 9th April 1952 there was received a large number of letters commenting upon various applications previously published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, including a letter of support for the present application, from Professor G. Winston Sinclair (then of the *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America. The letter in question was dated 6th February 1952, and its late receipt was apparently due to a decision to defer the despatch to the Commission of the letters containing comments by the members of the Joint Committee until all the letters in question had been prepared. By the date on which this letter was received, the Prescribed Period of Notice had expired and the Voting Paper (V.P.(52)17) relating to the present case had been prepared. It was therefore impossible to include in that Voting Paper a reference to Professor Sinclair's letter, but, when a few days later the Voting Paper was despatched (15th April), a supplementary sheet containing the particulars included in Professor Sinclair's letter was issued to the Members of the Commission, who were thus placed in possession of the views of the Joint Committee at the same time that they received the Voting Paper relating to the present case. The following is the text of Professor Sinclair's letter :—

The Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America has considered this subject, and I wish to inform you that, being polled, they voted :—To support the petition (ten) : (1) J. Marvin

Weller ; (2) Bobb Schaeffer ; (3) Don L. Frizzell ; (4) Bryan Patterson ; (5) Siemon W. Muller ; (6) A. Myra Keen ; (7) Katherine V. W. Palmer ; (8) John B. Reeside, Jr. ; (9) G. Winston Sinclair ; (10) R. C. Moore. To oppose the petition (one) :—John W. Wells.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)17*: On 15th April 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)17) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal “relating to the names *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, and *Sphaeroceras* Hope, 1840, as specified (a) in paragraph 6 of Dr. Arkell’s application and (b) in paragraph 7 of Mr. Tottenham’s supplementary application on pages 164—165 and 166 respectively in volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*” [i.e. in the paper by Dr. Arkell and its Appendix by Mr. Tottenham reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

8. *The prescribed Voting Period*: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 15th July 1952.

9. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)17*: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)17 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)*:

Hering ; Calman ; Riley ; Dymond ; Esaki ; Pearson ;
do Amaral ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Mertens ; Lemche ;
Vokes ; Cabrera ; Bradley ; Boschma ; Stoll ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes:*

None ;

(c) *Voting Paper V.P.(52)17 was not returned by one (1) Commissioner:*

Jaczewski.

10. *Declaration of Result of Vote:* On 16th July 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)17, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. On 8th March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)17.

12. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

brongniarti, *Ammonites*, Sowerby (J.), 1817, *Min. Conch.* 2 : 190
Globicornis Latreille, 1829, *Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 511
nigripes, *Dermestes*, Fabricius, 1792, *Syst. ent.* 1(1) : 233
Sphaeroceras Hope, 1840, *Coleopterist's Manual* 3 : 143
Sphaeroceras Bayle, 1878, *Explic. Carte géol. France* 4 (Atlas : pls. 52, 53)

13. The following is the type selection for the genus *Sphaeroceras* Bayle, 1878, specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Douvillé, 1879, *Bull. Soc. géol. France* (3) 7 C.R. : 91.

14. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

15. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred (300) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Ninth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

